

Accountability by Meredith Craig

Best put by motivational speaker John Di Lemme, “Accountability is what separates the wishers in life from the action-takers that care enough about their future to account for their daily actions.” Ultimately, being accountable for not only one’s actions but also goals and dreams too is what changes the world for the better.

Accountability probably isn’t the first thing that comes to mind when one mentions “important character traits,” but it definitely is just that. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, accountability is “an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one’s actions.” Taking this willingness and applying it to everything in life, whether it be school, work, or social matters is important because it makes for a strong sense of character and lets others place their trust in you knowing that you won’t let them down.

I’ve been a Girl Scout for over ten years now, and attended meetings of sisters for practically my entire life. Accountability is a lesson that they teach early on, as I remember in first or second grade learning to recite the Girl Scout Law. Just a few lines of the law include “I will do my best to be honest and fair... responsible for what I say and do. To respect myself and others... make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.” By the age of seven, we were taught to always be the best version of ourselves that we could be, to look out for one another, and to put these two tasks together to try and make a difference in the world; and for this I am grateful.

But again, it is not only important to being accountable for one’s actions, but to also hold yourself accountable for achieving your goals and dreams as well. It is said that Dr. Seuss was turned down by 27 publishers for his first book. J.K. Rowling was turned down by 12 publishers. The founder of Starbucks, Howard Schultz, was also turned down- 223 times. These people are all great examples of what can happen as a result of not only hard work, but having the courage and determination to keep going every time that they failed. They held themselves accountable for achieving what they had dreamed of doing, and saw it through to the end. And I’m sure that I am not the only one that is thankful for that. I think that if everyone tried to hold themselves just as accountable for their goals as these people did, then the possibilities would be endless.

Accountability isn’t just a single character trait, but rather a set of traits. It means responsibility. It means devotion. It means determination, seeing something- everything- through to the end; and it means reliability- letting other people know that they can always count on you. So if you take one thing from this article, it’s to not be the wisher but to be the action-taker, and the results may shock you.